

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for decoding a bitstream comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving a first encoded bitstream at an input of a pre-decoder, wherein said first encoded bitstream is an intra-only frame picture encoded bitstream comprising a frame header and alternating macroblock rows, with each macroblock row containing encoded data for a plurality of vertical lines from a single respective field of a frame picture encoded in said first encoded bitstream;

(B) generating in said pre-decoder a first field header and a second field header using said frame header of said first encoded bitstream, wherein said first field header comprises a copy of said frame header modified to signal a first field picture and said second field header comprises a copy of said frame header modified to signal a second field picture;

(C) storing said first field header and macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from a first field of the frame picture in a first buffer in said pre-decoder and storing said second field header and macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from a second field of the frame picture in a second buffer in said pre-decoder, wherein the encoded data for the plurality of

vertical lines contained in each macroblock row in said first buffer and said second buffer is a copy of the encoded data for the 25 plurality of vertical lines contained in a corresponding macroblock row in the first encoded bitstream; and

(D) generating a second encoded bitstream using said pre-decoder, said second encoded bitstream comprising (i) said first field header, (ii) said macroblock rows containing the 30 encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said first field of the frame picture, (iii) said second field header and (iv) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said second field of the frame picture, wherein said second encoded bitstream is an intra-only field 35 picture encoded bitstream; and

(E) presenting said second encoded bitstream to an input of a standard, MPEG-2 compliant decoder, wherein said second encoded bitstream is decoded as two interlaced field pictures and the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in each macroblock row remains encoded from reception of said first encoded bitstream at said input of said pre-decoder through presentation of said second encoded bitstream to said input of said standard, MPEG-2 compliant decoder.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said generating steps further comprise:

copying said frame header from said first encoded
bitstream into a first field header portion of said first buffer to
5 form said first field header and a second field header portion of
said second buffer to form said second field header;

modifying a portion of said first field header to
indicate a top field picture; and

10 modifying a portion of said second field header to
indicate a bottom field picture.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim
2, wherein said generating steps further comprise:

copying a plurality of said macroblock rows from said
first bitstream to said first buffer and said second buffer,
5 wherein said copying alternates between said first and said second
buffers after each macroblock row.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim
3, wherein said generating steps further comprise:

adjusting a slice number of each macroblock row in said
first buffer; and

5 adjusting a slice number of each macroblock row in said
second buffer to increment consecutively.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (D) further comprises:

writing (i) said first field header, (ii) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said first field of the frame picture, (iii) said second field header and (iv) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said second field of the frame picture consecutively to said second encoded bitstream.

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6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 4, wherein step (D) comprises:

writing said first buffer followed by said second buffer to said second encoded bitstream.

7. (CANCELED).

8. (CANCELED).

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

decoding said second encoded bitstream into a first decoded field picture and a second decoded field picture; and
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presenting even field lines on a television monitor in response to said first decoded field picture and odd field lines on

said television monitor in response to said second decoded field picture.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus including a non-transitory computer readable medium storing instructions for performing a process comprising:

means for receiving a first encoded bitstream, wherein
5 said first encoded bitstream is an intra-only frame picture encoded bitstream comprising a frame header and alternating macroblock rows, with each macroblock row containing encoded data for a plurality of vertical lines from a single respective field;

means for generating a first field header and a second
10 field header using said frame header of said first encoded bitstream, wherein said first field header comprises a copy of said frame header modified to signal a first field picture and said second field header comprises a copy of said frame header modified to signal a second field picture;

15 means for storing said first field header and macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from a first field of the frame picture in a first buffer and storing said second field header and macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from a second field of the frame picture in a second buffer, wherein the encoded
20 data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in each

macroblock row in said first buffer and said second buffer is a copy of the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in a corresponding macroblock row in the first encoded
25 bitstream; and

~~means for~~ generating a second encoded bitstream comprising (i) said first field header, (ii) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said first field of the frame picture, (iii) said second field header and (iv) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said second field of the frame picture, wherein said second encoded bitstream is an intra-only field picture encoded bitstream; and

35 ~~means for~~ decoding said second encoded bitstream as two interlaced field pictures comprising a standard, MPEG-2 compliant decoder, wherein the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in each macroblock row remains encoded from reception by said receiving means through presentation to said decoding means.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a first circuit configured to

(i) receive a first encoded bitstream, wherein said first encoded bitstream is an intra-only frame picture encoded
5 bitstream comprising a frame header and alternating macroblock

rows, with each macroblock row containing encoded data for a plurality of vertical lines from a single respective field,

(ii) generate a first field header and a second field header using said frame header of said first encoded bitstream, wherein said first field header comprises a copy of said frame header modified to signal a first field picture and said second field header comprises a copy of said frame header modified to signal a second field picture;

(iii) store said first field header and macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from a first field of the frame picture in a first buffer and store said second field header and macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from a second field of the frame picture in a second buffer, wherein the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in each macroblock row in the first buffer and the second buffer is a copy of the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in a corresponding macroblock row in the first encoded bitstream, and

(iv) generate a second encoded bitstream comprising
(a) said first field header, (b) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines from said first field of the frame picture, (c) said second field header and (d) said macroblock rows containing the encoded data for the

30 plurality of vertical lines from said second field of the frame
picture, wherein said second encoded bitstream is an intra-only
field picture encoded bitstream; and

35 a second circuit configured to decode said second encoded
bitstream as two interlaced field pictures, wherein said second
circuit comprises a standard, MPEG-2 compliant decoder and the
encoded data for the plurality of vertical lines contained in each
macroblock row remains encoded from reception by said first circuit
through presentation to said second circuit.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein said first circuit comprises:

one or more memory devices containing said first buffer
and said second buffer;

5 an output circuit coupled to said one or more memory
devices and generating said second encoded bitstream; and

10 a transform circuit coupled to said one or more memory
devices and said output circuit, and configured to (i) copy said
frame header from said first encoded bitstream into a first field
header portion of said first buffer to form said first field header
and a second field header portion of said second buffer to form
said second field header.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein said transform circuit is further configured to:

modify (i) a portion of said first field header to
indicate a top field picture and (ii) a portion of said second
field header to indicate a bottom field picture.

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14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein said transform circuit is further configured to:

copy a plurality of said macroblock rows from said first
encoded bitstream to said first buffer and said second buffer,
5 wherein said copying alternates between said first buffer and said
second buffer after each macroblock row is copied.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 14, wherein said transform circuit is further configured to:

adjust a slice number of each macroblock row in said
first buffer to increment consecutively and adjust a slice number
5 of each macroblock row in said second buffer to increment
consecutively.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein said transform circuit is further configured to:

5 write the contents of said first buffer and the contents
of said second buffer consecutively to said second encoded
bitstream.

17. (CANCELED) .

18. (CANCELED) .

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein said second circuit is further configured to:

decode said second encoded bitstream into a first decoded
field picture and a second decoded field picture; and

5 present even field lines on a television monitor in
response to said first decoded field picture and odd field lines on
said television monitor in response to said second decoded field
picture.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 11, wherein said first encoded bitstream is an intra-only
MPEG-2 frame picture stream and said second encoded bitstream is an
intra-only MPEG-2 field picture stream.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 16, wherein said transform circuit is further configured to:

write sequence-related information from said first encoded bitstream directly to said second encoded bitstream.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said transform circuit modifies one or more portions of sequence-related headers from said first encoded bitstream prior to output in said second encoded bitstream.

23. (CANCELED).

24. (CANCELED).

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein a picture coding extension portion of said first field header is modified to signal a top field and a picture coding extension portion of said second field header is modified to signal
5 a bottom field.